MCC
METROPOLITAN
COMMUNITY CHURCH
OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY

Sunday, January 26, 2014
3rd Epiphany Sunday

SCANDALOUS STORIES: CAIN & ABEL

930 North 4th Street ♦ Allentown, PA 18102
610-709-8800 ♦ info@mcclv.org ♦ www.mcclv.org

The Mission of MCCLV is to call all people to a holy life in Christ, changing lives and transforming the world

MCC LEHIGH VALLEY ORDER OF SERVICE

As you prepare for worship, take a few moments to reflect on the current state of your relationship with God. Is the communication channel completely open and free of any cross-traffic that might interfere with your ability to hear from God? What do you need to let go of, so that you may let God take control? Close your eyes, take a deep breath and let worship begin for you...

Opening Song

Call to Worship

Invitation to Ministry

A Time of Praise (3 Songs)

Prayer Preparation Song

Prayer

Scripture Reading

Children's Blessing

Message

Song of Response

Offering

Offering Song

Communion

Communion Song

Prayer Over Gifts

Closing Song

Commission & Blessing

MCCLV Welcomes new Administrative Assistant!
Paula Merkel

Office Hours:
Monday: 8am-2pm
Tues-Thurs: 8am—1pm
Fri: 8am—12 noon

Sunday Bulletin & Announcements

The deadline for all bulletin notices & announcements is **Wednesday at noon** – email to office@mcclv.org

Space Reservation: Any individual or group wishing to schedule a meeting or event at the church **is required to fill out a space reservation form** in order to get put on the calendar. Write to office@mcclv.org more information.

Audio-Visual Support: Anyone planning an event at MCCLV **is required to see Music & Worship Director Brian Jones** in advance to arrange any needed AV support. The church may not be able to honor last minute requests.

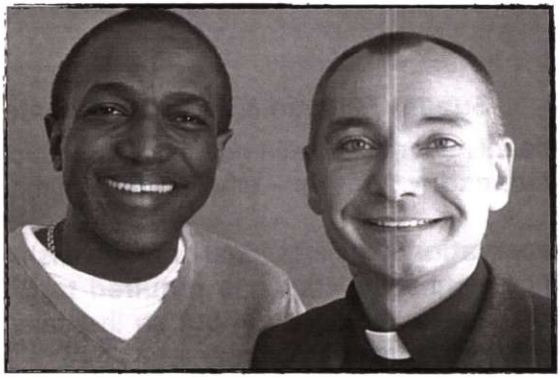
MCCLV IS ON FACEBOOK!
Search **MCC Lehigh Valley.** All MCCLV related posts and tags will be approved through the office. Thank you for your cooperation!

HELP ASHLEY OUT!

Ashley Richard is the coordinator of MCCLV's 2014 Freedom to Marry Interfaith Worship Service Reception. Let Ashley know you are able to help by talking with him after the worship service or e-mail him at **limexperience@gmail.com.** He is looking for all sorts of food donations and assistance on **Saturday, February 8.**

Interfaith Freedom to Marry Worship Service

Featuring keynote speakers:
Rev. Tom Decker, Open Arms MCC, Rochester, NY
Maurice Tomlinson, Jamaican LGBT Legal Advocate



February 8, 2014 at 7:00pm
wedding reception to follow

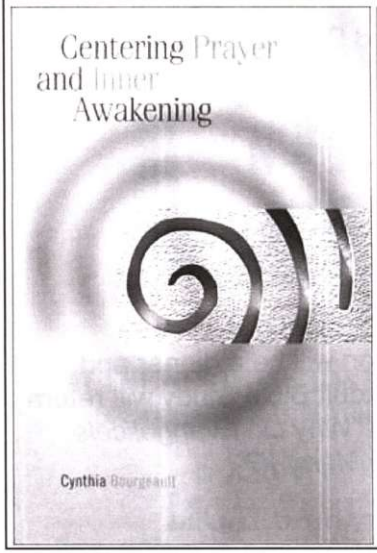
Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley
940 N. 4th St, Allentown, PA 18102

Sponsored by:
Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley
Pennsylvania Diversity Network
Equality Pennsylvania

A QUOTE FOR YOUR WEEK

**They sing of a life
free and simple
with time for one another,
and for people's needs,
based on the dignity of the human person,
at one with nature's beauty**

(Catholic Bishops of Appalachia)



Are You Feeling Off-Center?

Is your life feeling a bit off-kilter or are you in need of a deeper way of prayer? In May, June and July MCCLV will offer Centering Prayer at 6:00PM on Wednesdays. It would be helpful (though not required) if participants would read Rev. Cynthia Bourgeault's book "Centering Prayer and Inner Awakening" before May. Questions? See Rev. Goudy or e-mail her at rev.goudy@mcclv.org

Early Morning Prayer

Consider praying with other MCCLV worshipers each Sunday from 8:00 - 8:45AM in MCCLV's Prayer Room (Rev. Goudy's former office). Prayer is powerful and those in attendance will be praising, thanking and petitioning our most powerful God during periods of personal and group prayer. *"Truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by God in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." Matthew 18:19-20.* For more information, contact Karl Steiner - karl.steiner@mcclv.org.

Wednesday

- - - MAKE WEDNESDAY YOUR WORD DAY! - - -

Wednesdays at 7:00 PM, Adult Bible Study gathers for an hour at MCCLV. In this once-a-week Bible Study, participants read through a portion of the Bible each week. There is no homework or additional reading. The classes are facilitated by Rev. Goudy - beginning, intermediate and advanced Bible students are all welcome. The schedule is below:

January 29: **Now What?** (Acts 15 & 16)

February 5: **Now What?** (Acts 17-19)

February 12: **Now What?** (Acts 20-22)

February 19: **Now What?** (Acts 23-25)

February 26: **Now What?** (Acts 26-28)

March 5: **MCCLV's Ash Wednesday Service**

Wednesdays during the Lenten Season will be a dinner and video series. The Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study will return in May with a study on Romans titled: "*Why Do Evangelicals Love Romans So Much They Want to Marry It*?"

Soloist Auditions for Worship Services will take place on Sunday, February 16, 2014 from 1:00-2:30PM. Instrumentalists and vocalists welcome. See Brian Jones or e-mail him at brian.jones@mcclv.org for more information.

SUPPORT THE
FREEDOM TO MARRY

JOIN IN THE LEHIGH VALLEY RALLY
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7

RALLY BEGINS AT 12:30PM

AT THE NORTHAMPTON COURT HOUSE IN EASTON, PA
669 WASHINGTON ST, EASTON --PLEASE BE ON TIME & BRING SIGNS

PROCEED BY VEHICLE AT ABOUT 1:15PM TO

LEGAL SAME-SEX MARRIAGES

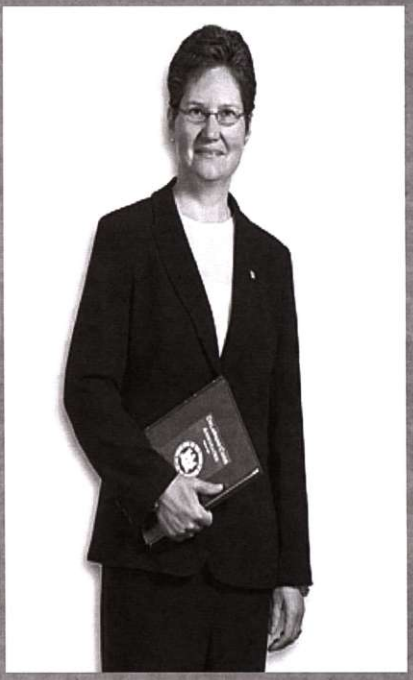
JUST OVER THE FREE BRIDGE, THEN LEFT, IN PHLLIPSBURG, NEW JERSEY

THEN CONGRATULATE THE LEGALLY MARRIED COUPLES
AT A LIGHT RECEPTION AT RE:FIND GALLERY - BEGINS: 2:15PM
437 NORTHAMPTON ST, EASTON, PA

Sponsored by:
Pennsylvania Diversity Network
Equality Pennsylvania
Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley

In-kind Sponsors:
RE:find Gallery ~ 437 Northampton St. Easton
Used Grooves DJs · 401 Northampton St. Easton
Sweet Girlz Bakery · 40 N 3rd St, Easton · sweetgirlzpa.com

SEE PENNSYLVANIA DIVERSITY NETWORK ON FACEBOOK, OR CALL 610-432-5449, OR EMAIL LBRADBURY@PADIVERSITY.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO LEARN HOW TO BE ONE OF THE SAME-SEX COUPLES WHO GETS LEGALLY MARRIED.



Equality Delaware

February 6, 2014
7pm
Miller Forum, Moyer Hall
Muhlenberg College
2400 W Chew Street,
Allentown, PA 18104

MOMENTUM FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY

A talk by Lisa Goodman, Esq.
President of Equality Delaware

An accomplished attorney, Lisa Goodman led the effort to pass three statewide LGBT equality laws in Delaware: Civil Unions (2011), Marriage Equality (2013) and a Gender Identity non-discrimination law (2013). Ms. Goodman received her J.D. at Widener University School of Law and is a nationally recognized leader in the marriage equality movement.

Sponsored by:
Muhlenberg College Office of the LGBT Coordinator
Muhlenberg College Meeting Points Series
Equality Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania Diversity Network
Metropolitan Community Church of the Greater Lehigh Valley

DIAMONZ
bar & grill

After party at Diamonz nightclub, 9pm—2am for all who attend the Interfaith Freedom to Marry service and reception on February 8, 2014 . Free admission and free first drink that night with church bulletin. Any questions please contact Cindy Rodriguez at cynthia.rodriguez@mcclv.org

God is good ... all the time!

HIV Positive Support Group

A HIV support group at MCCLV has started, it will be the 2nd Sunday of each month at 12:30pm. The focus will be on living a positive life with HIV. Thus, the group will be called HIV/Positive Living. This will be a chance to share and have candid discussions. This group will be limited to those with HIV, but there will be occasional guest speakers. The group will also have scheduled meetings for partners to attend, and a possibility of open meetings in the future for those interested in learning how to support and help those coping with this disease. If you are interested, please contact **Dean Hiatt** at robdean@ptd.net

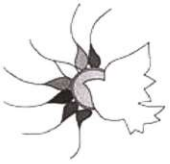
You Tube

MCCLV IS ON YOUTUBE!

To view and subscribe to our channel go to **www.youtube.com** and search **MCC LV**.

MCCLV and St. Andrews Episcopal Church will be co-sponsoring a fundraising raffle to benefit homeless men in the Lehigh Valley. Raffle tickets will be sold during fellowship hour: 3 tickets for each $1.00 donation. Prizes consist of a free haircut by Ruben, a hair care basket, a Zumba lesson and others. Donation of these items will be accepted: blankets, men's socks – all sizes, and men's personal care items. Donations will be distributed during Friday evening dinners provided to these men on January 31, February 28 and March 28, 2014. Volunteers are needed for multiple areas. For more information please contact Saadia Negron or Virginia Maurer after worship.

"Gracey" for You Valentine's Dance
Saturday, February 15, 6:30-10:30pm
At Grace United Church of Christ
1947 New Holland Pike, Eden (On Route 23 east of Lancaster). Featuring the live band Fierce.
Welcome to **ALL** adults, single or partnered.
Admission is $6 a ticket or two tickets for $10.
Light Refreshments will be available. A portion of the proceeds benefits The Tree House Project at Alder Health Services.
For more dance info call (717) 397-1012 or e-mail graceucc@comcast.net. The tree House Project can be found at www.thetreehuseatalder.org.



Please Note:

Retirees Meeting
MCCLV Retirees meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 9:30 AM. For the 2nd Tuesdays, the group meets at MCCLV in the Fellowship Hall. On the 4th Tuesdays, the group normally meets at the City View Diner; however for this upcoming 4th Tuesday, Jan 28th, the group will meet at the Northampton County Courthouse in Easton at 9:00 AM to support fellow retiree Barb Baus. Court information: 669 Washington St, Easton, PA 18042, 610 559 3000. For more details, contact Karl Steiner - karl.steiner@mcclv.org or see Barb Baus.

Bringing Christian Traditions Into Dialogue
HERE AT MCCLV IN 2014!

The Convergence Project

Meets every Sunday morning at MCCLV through April 13 at 9:00 AM, facilitated by Robert Schotter, robdean@ptd.net

February 2 A Man's World? Patriarchy and Biblical Texts Part I
February 9 A Man's World? Patriarchy and Biblical Texts Part II
February 16 How Not To Be A Control Freak: Honor & Shame in the Biblical Texts
February 23 Banned from Sunday School: Sexualities in Scripture
March 2 Inhospitable Texts: Same Sex Practices in Hebrew Scripture Part I
March 9 Inhospitable Texts: Same Sex Practices in Hebrew Scripture Part II
March 16 Jesus, Paul, Luke & Eunuchs: Same Sex Practices in Christian Scripture, Part I
March 23 Jesus, Paul, Luke & Eunuchs: Same Sex Practices in Christian Scripture, Part II
March 30 Power and the Alternative Family Values of Jesus
April 6 Reading Scripture from the Margins

CHILI COOK-OFF

There will be a Chili Cook-Off competition immediately following the worship service **TODAY**. Prize ribbons will be awarded as a token of appreciation. Sponsored by Outreach and Justice Ministry.

Ash Wednesday Service will be held March 5 at MCCLV at 7:00pm

Thank You Corner

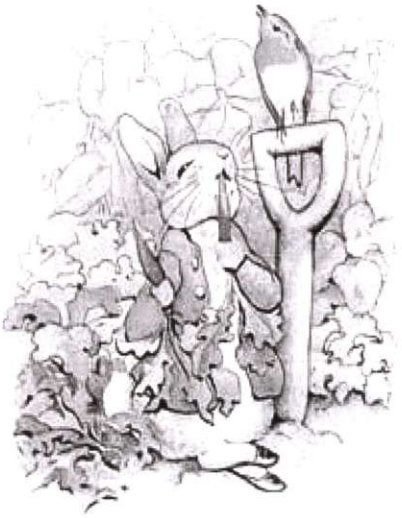
MCCLV Thank Ron Smith

The church is grateful for member Ron Smith's effort in coordinating new property improvements. Ron organized the contractors for the new floor in the Fellowship Hall and front entry way. Additionally, Ron negotiated more office and multi-use space for MCCLV on the buildings second floor.

Thank You Ron!

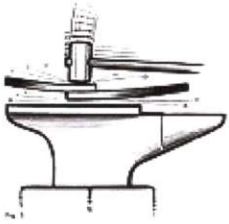
Children's Book Fund Raising Drive

MCCLV will be collecting **NEW** books for sick children from the beginning of January until the end of February. Books needed for all ages of children and teens. They must be unwrapped, non-violent and non-religious. Books will go to the "Sick Kids Can Read" program at Lehigh Valley Hospital. They can be placed in the painted box in Fellowship Hall. Please contact Cindy Rodriguez if you are interesting in donating at Cynthia.rodriguez@mcclv.org



Does Music Inspire You to Move?
Do You Use Music to Express Yourself,
t o Pray, to Worship?
If You're Interested in Exploring Music and Movement
See Carolyn Gaffney or email cargaff@gmail.com

FORGE



a stronger relationship with Christ and one another - Join a FORGE group! Groups meet every other week for one hour for worship, prayer, devotionals, testimonies, and fellowship. Although groups are spread out geographically to make them easier to get to, you may attend whichever group you choose, even if it's not the one nearest you.

Contact group leaders to learn more!

FORGE Group East - *Meeting in Perkasie.*
Leaders: Loreli Bauer **lorelibauer@aol.com**
Elaine Ely **pastor_elaine@yahoo.com**

FORGE Group East - *Meeting in Bethlehem*
Leaders: Hope Hilby **hopehilby@gmail.com**
Barb Baus **babaus@hotmail.com**

FORGE Group West - *Meeting in Allentown*
Leaders: Scott George **smgmcclv@gmail.com**
Ron Smith **ron.smith@mcclv.org**

UPCOMING WORSHIP AT MCCLV

3rd Epiphany: January 26, 2014 @10:30 AM
Scripture Reading: Genesis 4:1-16
Preaching: Rev. Elizabeth Goudy
Sermon Title: **"Scandalous Stories: Cain & Abel"**

4th Epiphany: February 2, 2014
Scripture Reading: Judges 16:1-21
Preaching: Rev. Elizabeth Goudy
Sermon Title: **"Scandalous Stories: Delilah"**

5th Epiphany: February 9, 2014
Scripture Readings: Genesis 12:10-20
Preaching: Rev. Elizabeth Goudy
Sermon Title: **"Scandalous Stories: Moses"**

6th Epiphany: February 9, 2014
Scripture Readings: Genesis 12: 10-20: 1-7 & 26: 6-11
Preaching: Rev. Elizabeth Goudy
Sermon Title: **"Scandalous Stories: Abraham & Isaac"**

CHANGE OF DATE!
Rev. Delores Berry will be ministering with MCCLV on Pentecost Sunday, June 8, 2014. Mark your calendars now!

Today's Scripture Reading:

Genesis 4: 1-16

Now the man knew his wife Eve, and she conceived and bore
Cain, saying, 'I have produced* a man with the help of the LORD.'
2Next she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of
sheep, and Cain a tiller of the ground. 3In the course of time Cain
brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, 4and
Abel for his part brought of the firstlings of his flock, their fat
portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, 5but
for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very
angry, and his countenance fell. 6The LORD said to Cain, 'Why
are you angry, and why has your countenance fallen? 7If you do
well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is
lurking at the door; its desire is for you, but you must master it.'
8 Cain said to his brother Abel, 'Let us go out to the field.'* And
when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel
and killed him. 9Then the LORD said to Cain, 'Where is your
brother Abel?' He said, 'I do not know; am I my brother's
keeper?' 10And the LORD said, 'What have you done? Listen;
your brother's blood is crying out to me from the ground! 11And
now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its
mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. 12When
you till the ground, it will no longer yield to you its strength; you
will be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth.' 13Cain said to the
LORD, 'My punishment is greater than I can bear! 14Today you
have driven me away from the soil, and I shall be hidden from
your face; I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and
anyone who meets me may kill me.' 15Then the LORD said to him,
'Not so!* Whoever kills Cain will suffer a sevenfold vengeance.'
And the LORD put a mark on Cain, so that no one who came
upon him would kill him. 16Then Cain went away from the
presence of the LORD, and settled in the land of Nod, east of
Eden.

MCCLV's Weekly 2014 Budgeted for Giving is 3,916.98

Date	Attendance	Giving
1/19/2014	89	$2,000.86
1/12/2014	111	$2,123.00
1/05/2014	88	$2,404.10

MCCLV Year-to-Date Budget: $11,750.94
MCCLV Year-to-Date Offering: $6,527.96
Surplus or Deficit? ..... -$5,222.98 (Deficit)

MCCLV MINISTRY COORDINATORS

Congregational Care & Health:
Karl Steiner | karl.steiner@mcclv.org
20s30s Ministry, Faith Community Nurse, Hospitality, Prayer Team and Reconciliation & Affirmation Ministry

Discipleship:
If interested in this position see Rev. Goudy
Small Group Discipleship, Spiritual Growth Programming and Children & Youth Ministry

Outreach & Justice:
Cynthia Rodriguez | cynthia.rodriguez@mcclv.org
Evangelism, Free Market, Silent Witness, Food Bank and Messengers Art Ministry

Media & Marketing:
If interested in this position see Rev. Goudy
Communications and Marketing Ministry

Denominational Representatives:
Lay Delegates Hope Hilby and Normana Schaaf

MCCLV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sue Carpenter, Jim Harbst, Diana LaTorre, Emma Marrero, Lauren Sheldon and Ron Smith
MCCLV Board meets the second Sunday of every month.
If you would like an item included on their agenda see any Board Member

MCCLV DEACONS

Loreli Bauer, Maricel Concepcion, Clarence Freed, Hope Hilby, Jessica Mitchell, Normana Schaaf, Karl Steiner and Carol Stevens

MCCLV STAFF

Pastor: Elizabeth Goudy | rev.goudy@mcclv.org
Music and Worship Director: Brian Jones | brian.jones@mcclv.org
Administrative Assistant: Paula Merkel | office@mcclv.org